

PANEL RESULTS & COMMENTS

2019 PROJECT SUPPORT II



Golden Ciphers, Inc.

Your Project Title: D'Jembe and Beyond Project

Your Project Summary: D'Jembe and Beyond Project will provide and introduce the culture of African Drumming, Drum Circles, making and repairing drums and other instruments with quarterly overnight Drum Camp Retreat to bond, learn, drum and create in a environment of nature away from the City and City influences. Youth and adults will have an opportunity to perform at our free community events throughout the year and include the audience after their performance in drum circles led by the participants.

Final Score: Yes. Overall, the panel felt that the applicant provided evidence throughout the application that the funding criteria were met.

CAC Grant Amount: \$5,000

To ensure an impartial and transparent application review process, CAC convened an online panel of arts and cultural professionals from outside the region who evaluated and scored eligible applications.

Panelists scored each application based on the Funding Criteria—Public Benefit, Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy and Organizational Capacity—with an emphasis on Public Benefit. For more details regarding the panel process and full panelist bios, please review the [Panel Guide](#).



Sarah Benvenuti
(New York, NY)



Tracie Hall
(Chicago, IL)



Leesa Jing
(Indianapolis, IN)



Carly Jones
(Raleigh, NC)



Kevin O'Hora
(New York, NY)

Below you will find each panelist's score and comment on your application in response to the question: **With an emphasis on public benefit, does the applicant demonstrate evidence that it meets CAC's three funding criteria?**

Note: Panelist scores and comments are presented in no particular order.

Panelist 1

Score: Yes

Comment: This proposal demonstrates public benefit directly to the 120 youth that stand to directly reached through programming. The fact that these youth--many of whom are referred by Juvenile Court have an opportunity to engage in a wide range of programming which includes performance instruction, moves the program beyond mere arts exposure and provides arts learning--an important distinction. This reviewer would have liked, however, to have seen more robust supporting materials.

Panelist 2

Score: Yes

Comment: The project meets the funding criteria. The applicant serves a very specific community with this project, which allows them to base decisions off their community and really focus their project. The public benefit is described in detail, and the Family Nights allow community members to truly connect and reflect on the music together. The project goal is very specific, demonstrating an in depth planning process. I do wish the budget was more detailed, however the strength of the narrative is enough evidence that planning efforts will be successful.

Panelist 3

Score: Yes

Comment: This project meets all funding criteria. The project has immense potential to generate public benefit through free community workshops that will use music to build community. Additionally, it will engage a diverse cohort of artists and provide educational opportunities to at-risk youth. This project's commitment to d'jembe will result in a more vibrant community of artists for the region. The proposal indicates strong organizational capacity based on its board involvement in fundraising, staff of highly qualified experts and 15-year history of operations. I appreciate the application's detailed goal setting will easily be quantified and measured, further demonstrating the strength of the application.

Panelist 4

Score: Yes

Comment: Public Benefit: Clear understanding of who their community is. Long history of serving that community. Shows the impact of the drum circles through inter-generational sharing and the education they work to have in their program. Artistic & Cultural Vibrancy: The

project is deep in it's cultural vibrancy, with participants learning, creating, rehearsing and performing. Vibrant and well-thought out. Using the drum circle to help think about many themes and issues. Organizational Capacity: Professional staff and partnerships show a strong capacity. They have done this, showing capacity, but I would have liked a bit more detail on your plan to reach the \$3,750K fundraising goal.

Panelist 5

Score: Yes

Comment: Yes, this application meets the funding criteria. Public Benefit: Through their "D'jembe and Beyond" program, Golden Ciphers is working with a very specific community of marginalized youth, with many from the juvenile justice system. The organization is responding to the needs of this particular group directly through music and responsive programming. Artistic and Cultural Vibrancy: This program introduces music as a healing tool for these youth and teaches them new skills to cope with the issues they may face in their everyday lives. Organizational Capacity: The goals outlined are very specific and achievable. Stronger fundraising tactics would have strengthened the application, but overall this is a strong proposal.

Questions? Cuyahoga Arts & Culture is here to assist. Please contact:

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